Dr. Hilde Theresia Bühler (1916–1999)

A life shaped by science, teaching, and a deep love of nature

Dr. Hilde Theresia Bühler was born on **24 March 1916** in Neustadt im Schwarzwald, the daughter of notary **Severin Bühler** and his wife **Emma**, née Pfeffinger. She grew up in a family that valued education, discipline, and intellectual curiosity — qualities that would define her life's work.

Education and Early Academic Path

From 1926 to 1935, Hilde attended secondary school in Karlsruhe, completing her studies at the Fichte-Schule. She began studying chemistry at the Technical University of Karlsruhe in 1935, but serious health issues forced her to interrupt her studies for several years.

In **1941**, she resumed her academic path at the **University of Heidelberg**, shifting her focus toward **botany**, with chemistry and physics as her doctoral minors. Under the supervision of Professor Dr. Seybold, she completed her dissertation:

"Über den Stickstoffgehalt plasmochromer und chymochromer Blumenblätter" (*On the Nitrogen Content of Plasmochrome and Chymochrome Petals*)

Her research, carried out between 1942 and 1943, was a meticulous and demanding study in plant physiology — all the more remarkable given the difficult wartime context in which it was produced.

She earned the degree **Dr. rer. nat.**, marking her as a fully trained natural scientist at a time when few women reached such academic heights.

A Life in Teaching

After the Second World War, Hilde began her long and influential teaching career at the **Reuchlin-Realgymnasium in Pforzheim**, where she taught **biology, chemistry, and mathematics** — a rare combination that reflected her broad scientific training.

Her dedication and competence were recognized steadily:

- **1948** – appointed *Studienassessorin*
- **1955** – promoted to *Studienrätin*
- **1960** – advanced to *Oberstudienrätin*

For more than **three decades**, she devoted herself to awakening in young people a love of nature and an understanding of its laws. Former students remembered her as a teacher of clarity, rigor,

and genuine enthusiasm — someone who believed that scientific insight could shape character as much as intellect.

Her home in **Tiefenbronn** remained her anchor throughout her life. There, her personal passions — especially her deep love of horses — complemented her professional world. The obituary from the Hebel-Gymnasium notes that her surroundings and her vocation "*ergänzten sich in idealer Weise*," forming a harmonious whole.

Later Years and Retirement

By the late 1960s, the effects of her long-standing health challenges became more pronounced. In **1970**, she retired from full-time teaching, but her commitment to her students remained strong. She continued to teach part-time at the **Hebel-Gymnasium** for another **seven years**, maintaining her connection to the school community she cherished.

Passing and Legacy

Dr. Hilde Bühler passed away on **23 February 1999** after a short, serious illness. Her family described her as a "*valuable person*," admired until the end and a role model in many ways.

Her funeral took place in Tiefenbronn, and in a gesture that reflected her lifelong compassion for animals, the family requested donations for **animals in need** instead of flowers.

She is remembered with affection by her family, and by generations of students and colleagues who benefited from her intellect, her discipline, and her quiet but enduring devotion to the natural world.

A Life of Integrity and Purpose

Tante Hilde's life bridged scholarship and service. She was a scientist who understood plants at the cellular level, and a teacher who understood young people at the human level. Her legacy lives on in the lives she shaped, the knowledge she passed on, and the affection with which she is still remembered.